

N. Torrance Civic Group Names Queen

Carol Withners, 3880 W. 182nd St., was chosen "Miss North Torrance" in a queen contest held in North Torrance and decided in McMaster Hall last week.

Seventeen-year-old Miss Withners has lived in Torrance for 13 years and attended school at Perry Elementary and Torrance High Schools. She is now a student at El Camino College, and plans to become a teacher upon graduation.

The queen was awarded a gold bracelet engraved "Queen N.C.T.A. 1954" at the contest, and also was given a certificate for a permanent wave and facial. Miss Withners will compete for beauty honors to reign as queen over the first annual Fair to be held in Torrance in August. A trip to Mexico City will be arranged for the winner.

OK Plans for Harbor Pool

The Los Angeles City Recreation and Park Commission this week approved the preliminary plans submitted by Architects A. Quincy Jones and Frederick Emmons for the construction of the Harbor Park Swimming Pool, Wilmington.

According to the Recreation and Park Department, the Commission will issue a call for bids for the plunge following its approval of final plans and specifications for the project. The drawings are now being prepared by the architects, the Department said.

The Recreation and Park Department reported that the Harbor Park Pool, to be constructed on city-owned property bounded by North Figueroa and "L" streets, Wilmington, will be financed under provisions of the City's 1947 bond issue for additional recreation facilities. It will be the 11th plunge made possible by the bond issue, it was emphasized.

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Sacramento Report



By CHARLES CHAPEL

Assemblyman, 46th District California Legislature

A group of ethical used car dealers has come to me with recommendations regarding laws which they think should be enacted during the 1955 session of the Legislature. One bill prohibits a used automobile dealer from turning back the speedometer to show less mileage on the dealer reports to the Department of Motor Vehicles before it was turned back. This would apply to cars sold here and also those purchased outside the State and then brought to California.

Another suggestion is that we enact a law which prohibits the sale of new or used automobiles unless they are first inspected for mechanical defects. The dealer, would attach to the car

Gas Co. Head Takes Course In Economics

Lester E. Green, Southwest Division Manager for the Southern California Gas Company, begins a six-week course on Monday at the Institute of Business Economics of the University of Southern California. Green and 29 other Southland business and industry leaders will live on the USC campus during the economic sessions.

The Institute program will be conducted under the direction of Dr. Robert Dockson, Director of the Marketing Section of the USC School of Commerce. He will be assisted by six university professors from the fields of political science, law, money theory, marketing, philosophy and economics.

In conducting the study session, the professors will act as a team discussing informally the general economic subjects with the industry and business leaders.

Objectives of the program include the study of the American economic system and its goals, the philosophy of contemporary society, the structure of the free enterprise system, and social trends.

Lectures and study periods at the Institute will be in session from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays through July 23.

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FAN BELTS USED About 11 million motorists buy and install new fan belts in their cars each year.

a certificate showing the tests, adjustments and inspection made and the condition of the vehicle.

I would like to receive written comments on these proposed laws from automobile dealers and also from the general public. I do believe that most used car dealers are honest but the public needs protection from the unfair practices of a small but overly active group of crooks.

Public Meetings During the 1953 session of the Legislature we enacted Assembly Bill No. 359 which became known as Chapter 1588 more accurately described as Section 1, Chapter 9, comprising Sections 54950 to 54958, inclusive, added to Part 1, Division 2, Title 5, of the Government Code. Ordinarily, I do not bore you with such details, but you will see the importance of this shortly.

The new law requires that all meetings of the legislative body of a local agency, such as a county, city, city and county, town, school district, municipal corporation, district, political subdivision, or any board, commission, or agency thereof, must be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the local agency. The law also provides in detail for notices re-

garding the time and place of meetings.

The purpose of the law, obviously, is to keep legislative bodies from settling important issues in secret session and then holding public hearings on unimportant issues only. The only exception is that a legislative body can hold an executive session to consider the employment or discharge of a public officer or an employee. Also, witnesses can be excluded while they are waiting to testify at hearings. With these exceptions, meetings must be open and public.

Narcotic Legislation

You may remember that I personally started a letter-writing campaign all over the State of California to get the Governor to place narcotic legislation on the agenda for the March, 1954 session, and to persuade the Legislature that they should enact my bill making it possible for a judge to impose life imprisonment for the first offense and death for the second offense of giving or selling narcotics to a juvenile.

The letter-writing campaign did persuade the Governor of the importance of putting narcotics on the agenda, but the Assembly Judiciary Committee, which is composed of twenty-three lawyers, said my bill was too harsh. However, they went

along with me part way by increasing the former term of six months in the county jail to a year and a six-year term in the state penitentiary to from five years to life, but still these sentences are too light and they apply only to ordinary narcotic peddling and do not sufficiently reach the narcotic peddler who makes heroin addicts out of juveniles.

Please understand that under the present law a judge can give a narcotic peddler a county jail sentence, thereby reducing what most of us regard as a great crime to a mere misdemeanor. Why do Judges give such light sentences? I am curious to know the answer to this question myself. I am also curious about the failure of lawyers in the Legislature to face their responsibilities to the people of California when it comes to providing stiffer penalties for narcotic offenses. Regardless of this situation, I am going back in January, 1955, to once more try to get stiffer sentences for those who make heroin addicts out of children. I am sure you are with me in this enterprise.

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